

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A communications network comprising a central unit, a first peripheral unit, and a second peripheral unit; the central unit being connected by a first link to the first peripheral unit and by a second link to the second peripheral unit, the communications network further comprising:

means for providing a radio link between the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit;

means for providing communication between the central unit and the second peripheral unit over the radio link upon failure of the second link;

means for making a determination whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for providing communication reroutes traffic carried over the second link to the radio link and the first link.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for providing communication provides control information concerning one of the second link and the second peripheral unit to the radio link and the first link.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the means for providing communication provides fault localization information concerning failure of the second link to the radio link and the first link.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein one of (1) the central unit, and (2) the first peripheral unit ~~determine~~makes the determination whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the central unit, the first peripheral unit, and the second peripheral unit are each nodes of the communications network.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the communications network is a radio access telecommunications network, wherein the central unit is a radio network control (RNC) node; wherein the first peripheral unit is a first base station; and wherein the second peripheral unit is a second base station.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the central unit, the first peripheral unit, and the second peripheral unit comprise portions of a distributed radio base station node of a radio access telecommunications network.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the central unit comprises data processing and control functions of the distributed radio base station node, and wherein at least one of the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit comprises a transceiver of the distributed radio base station node.

10. (Currently Amended) A communications network comprising:
a central unit;
a first peripheral unit;
a second peripheral unit;
a first link which connects the central unit to the first peripheral unit;
a second link which connects the central unit to the second peripheral unit,
a radio link connecting the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit;
wherein communication occurs between the central unit and the second peripheral unit over the radio link upon failure of the second link;

wherein one of (1) the central unit, and (2) the first peripheral unit determine whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein rerouting of traffic carried over the second link to the radio link and the first link occurs upon failure of the second link.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein control information concerning one of the second link and the second peripheral unit is carried over the second link to the radio link and the first link occurs upon failure of the second link.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~10~~¹², wherein the control information is fault localization information concerning failure of the second link.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein ~~one of (1) the central unit, and (2) the first peripheral unit determine makes the determination~~ whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the central unit, the first peripheral unit, and the second peripheral unit are each nodes of the communications network.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the communications network is a radio access telecommunications network, wherein the central unit is a radio network control (RNC) node; wherein the first peripheral unit is a first base station; and wherein the second peripheral unit is a second base station.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the central unit, the first peripheral unit, and the second peripheral unit comprise portions of a distributed radio base station node of a radio access telecommunications network.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the central unit comprises data processing and control functions of the distributed radio base station node, and wherein at least one of the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit comprises a transceiver of the distributed radio base station node.

19. (Currently Amended) A peripheral unit for use in a communications network which also includes a central unit and ~~another~~^a peripheral unit, the central unit being

connected by a first link to the ~~another~~ peripheral unit and by a second link to the ~~the another~~ peripheral unit, the peripheral unit comprising:

means for communicating with the central unit over a radio link upon failure of the second link, the radio link being established between the peripheral unit and the ~~another~~ peripheral unit;

means for making a determination whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for communicating reroutes traffic carried over the second link to the radio link and the first link.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the means for communicating provides control information concerning one of the second link and the ~~another~~ peripheral unit to the radio link and the first link.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for communicating provides fault localization information concerning failure of the second link to the radio link and the first link.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the peripheral unit is a base station of a radio access telecommunications network.

24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the central unit, the ~~first~~ peripheral unit, and the ~~second another~~ peripheral unit comprise portions of a distributed radio base station node of a radio access telecommunications network.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the central unit comprises data processing and control functions of the distributed radio base station node, and wherein at least one of the ~~first~~ peripheral unit and the ~~second another~~ peripheral unit comprises a transceiver of the distributed radio base station node.

26. (Currently Amended) For use in a communications network comprising a central unit, a first peripheral unit, and a second peripheral unit; the central unit being connected by a first link to the first peripheral unit and by a second link to the second peripheral unit, a method comprising:

providing communication between the central unit and the second peripheral unit over a radio link upon failure of the second link, the radio link extending between the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit;

determining whether to reroute entire traffic or control information based upon the redundancy capacity of the first link.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing communication comprises rerouting traffic carried over the second link to the radio link and the first link.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of providing communication comprises providing control information concerning one of the second link and the second peripheral unit to the radio link and the first link.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of providing control information comprises providing fault localization information concerning failure of the second link to the radio link and the first link.

30. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the central unit, the first peripheral unit, and the second peripheral unit are each nodes of the communications network.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the communications network is a radio access telecommunications network, wherein the central unit is a radio network control (RNC) node; wherein the first peripheral unit is a first base station; and wherein the second peripheral unit is a second base station.

32. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein the central unit, the first peripheral unit, and the second peripheral unit comprise portions of a distributed radio base station node of a radio access telecommunications network.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the central unit comprises data processing and control functions of the distributed radio base station node, and wherein at least one of the first peripheral unit and the second peripheral unit comprises a transceiver of the distributed radio base station node.

34. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the central unit determining whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

35. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the first peripheral unit determining whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the determination involves checking capacity of the first peripheral unit and the first radio link.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first peripheral unit makes the determination whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the determination involves checking capacity of the first peripheral unit and the first radio link.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the determination involves checking capacity of the peripheral unit and the first radio link.

40. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising the central unit determining whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link by checking capacity of the first peripheral unit and the first radio link.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the first peripheral unit makes the determination whether traffic and/or control information is to be rerouted from the second link to the first link by checking capacity of the first peripheral unit and the first radio link.